

# NEWSS



# NEWS

## NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY Newsletter

April 2007

### Comments from the President



**Renee Keese**  
**NEWSS President**

It seems like our 61<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in Baltimore, MD was only a few weeks ago, but January is gone and here it is spring, time to start a new season. Our conference was very successful, with changes in our format and a new Awards Luncheon. Thanks go to Jerry Barron, Program Chair and Past President Bill Curran for organizing a great event. Our attendance was at 190, very similar to last year, plus another 58 people attended our symposia on Friday. Thanks also to the symposia organizers: Art Gover, Larry Norton and Mark VanGessel receive kudos—we appreciate your time in helping to bring additional attendance into our conference.

The Board has already begun working on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting to be held January 7-10, 2008 at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, PA. Please note that this is one week later than usual, due to New Year's Day falling mid-week. David Yarborough is working on the General Session and already contacting the Session Chairs for input (see his report in the newsletter). The Executive Committee (EC) is working to interpret the Survey and begin incorporating your suggestions into the next Annual

Meeting. We are also having discussions with the Mid-Atlantic-SER about a joint meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

We welcome the following new members to the EC: David Yarborough as our Vice President, Greg Armel as our Editor and Matt Ryan as our Graduate Student Representative. Thanks also go to out-going Editor Hilary Sandler and Jacob Barney, our Grad Student Rep for jobs well done! The Executive Committee is a great group of volunteers who donate their time for the benefit on the NEWSS. The EC is listed on the website ([www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)) if you need to contact anyone.

Shawn Askew at Virginia Tech will be hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> NEWSS Collegiate Weed Contest, to be held in Blacksburg, VA on July 31. Monday July 30 will be for travel and set-up. Shawn and his committee at Tech will be looking for volunteers, and this is always a fun and worthwhile event, so mark your calendars. I encourage students to participate and take advantage of interacting with other students, faculty from a variety of universities and industry representatives. Information will be forwarded to coaches and students soon and will include a new Code of Conduct approved by the EC last month. The Code of Conduct for the NEWSS Weed Contest is as follows:

*It is the expectation of the Executive Committee and NEWSS members*

that students and all participants involved in the Weed Contest (coaches, Executive Committee, volunteers, etc.) will behave in a professional manner, representing their institutions. This includes but is not limited to using proper, not foul, language and guarding against over-consumption of alcoholic beverages if of drinking age. Students are making contacts within the profession and should represent themselves accordingly.

Make plans this year to participate in the Weed Contest in July and our Annual Meeting next January. Be thinking of titles to submit, and if you have ideas for a Symposium, please forward those to David Yarborough. It takes input from the membership to keep the NEWSS a vibrant society, dealing with current issues, and I look forward to serving as your president this year.

## Secretary/Treasurer Update



**Chris Becker**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

2007 NEWSS Attendance				INCOME (\$\$)	
	Prereg.	On-Site	Total	(Not audited)	
Members	119	29	148	22860	(all memb.)
Distinguished/Retired	11	1	12		
Students	19	3	22		
Sustaining Associates	5		5	14250	
Turf symposia	5	29	34	1190	
Symposia	5	20	25	875	
Speakers		3	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>249</b>		
Members w/o attending mtg.			4	120	Members (w/o attend mtg)
				2050	Proceedings
				235	CD's
				960	(Late fees)
				540	Polo shirts
				\$43080	TOTAL

## Wrap-up of 2007 Annual Meeting



**Jerry Baron**  
**President-Elect**

Thanks for the 249 NEWSS Members and guests who made the 2007 Annual Meeting at the Marriott Renaissance Baltimore, MD another huge success. The theme of the program, "Broadening our Weed Science Horizons" covered a wide range of topics. With that we had an expanded General Session. Speakers in the General Session included Bill Curran with the NEWSS Presidential Address. This was followed by presentations by Dr. Janice McFarland of Syngenta titled "Where Will the Next Generation of Weed Scientists be Trained"; Rich Bonanno's discussion of the Future's Committee findings, Dr. Leonard Gianessi of the Crop Life America Foundation on "The War on Weeds"; and I presented some information on New Technology in Weed Management. The General Session ended with a panel discussion on Government Influence in Weed Science: Legislation, Regulation and Science Funding. This panel was moderated by Dan Kunkel and included presentations by Dr. Rob Hedberg of USDA-CSREES, Mr. Donald Stubbs of US EPA and Dr. Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Director of Science Policy.

New for 2007 was an Awards Luncheon. Here the 2007 NEWSS Award winners were honored. This Award Luncheon was well received by members and participants. At the luncheon, everyone was asked to complete the Membership Survey. The results of the survey are presented in Bill Curran's article.

The breakout session were well attended. Many members commented on the high quality of the papers. We also had great attendance for the workshops and symposiums. These included an Ornamental Workshop which focused on research methods, a symposium on Invasive Plants in Riparian Buffers, Innovative new Chemistries for Golf Courses and Horseweed Management symposium.

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Program Plans for 2008



**Dave Yarborough**  
**Vice President**

It is always a challenge to come up with a 'hot' topic for the general session of the NEWSS meeting. The Weed Ecology and Biology session business

meeting in Baltimore provided the suggestion of the theme of *The effect of climate change on weeds*. This topic has met with the approval of the section chairs and the Executive committee. There are a number of individuals in the Northeast that have given excellent presentations on this topic and I will be contacting them to develop an informative program for the 2008 meeting in Philadelphia. An additional topic on merits and potential drawbacks of using weeds as biofuels was also suggested and will be explored.

We are always looking for ways to improve the meeting format, the awards lunch initiated last year was a change the membership enjoyed and will be continued. I also asked for input from the session chairs on changing the format to place all of the graduate student presentations in one session without any other conflicting sessions. This will provide the students a larger audience and allow all of the membership to see their contributions. Most of the section chairs and chairs elect supported the idea, and this will free up time that the individual sessions may use for discussion topics. The Turf and Growth Regulators section will be sponsoring a workshop. If you have any ideas you wish to have explored at the meeting please contact me or the appropriate session chair.

## NEWSS News Articles



**Dwight Lingenfelter**  
**Public Relations**

Submit worthwhile articles, comments, suggestion, pictures, and the like for future newsletters. Please send them via email to Dwight Lingenfelter (DXL18@psu.edu).

## NEWSS Editor Notes



**Greg Armel**  
**Editor**

Mark your calendar and prepare to give a paper or poster at the 2008 meeting.

**Titles due:** Friday September 7, 2007

**Abstracts due:** Friday October 19, 2007

## 2007 Weed Science Field Days

**Dave Johnson, Committee Chair**

Date	Location	Contact
June 26	Virginia Tech, Painter, VA	Henry Wilson, hwilson@vt.edu
June 27	Univ. of Delaware, Research and Education Center, Georgetown, DE	Mark VanGessel, mjev@udel.edu
June 28	Univ. of Maryland, Wye (morning) & Beltsville, MD (afternoon)	Ron Ritter, rritter@umd.edu
July 6	Penn State Univ., SE Research/Extension Center, Landisville, PA	Dave Johnson, dhj3@psu.edu or Bill Curran, wcurran@psu.edu
TBD	Cornell Univ. Hudson Valley, Valatie, NY	Russ Hahn, rrh4@cornell.edu
July 10	Penn State Univ., Rock Springs, PA	Bill Curran, wcurran@psu.edu
July 11	Cornell Univ. Aurora, NY	Russ Hahn, rrh4@cornell.edu
July 12	Cornell Univ. Freewille, NY	Robin Bellinder, rrb3@cornell.edu
July 13	Rutgers Univ, Bridgeton, NJ	Brad Majek, Majek@aesop.rutgers.edu

## 2007 Turf Field Days

**Kathie E. Kalmowitz**

Date	Location
<b>North US</b>	
June 26	UMass – Amherst, MA
July 26	Wisconsin – Madison, WI
July 31	Rutgers – East Brunswick, NJ
Aug. 15	Ohio State – Columbus, OH
Aug. 22	Michigan State – East Lansing, MI
Oct 3	Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA
Off year	Maryland and Penn State
<b>South US</b>	
Aug. 8	North Carolina – Lake Wheeler Turf Center, Raleigh, NC
Aug. 21	South Carolina – Pee Dee REC, Clemson, SC
Off year	Univ. Georgia

## NEWSS 2007 Executive Committee

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The 2007 NEWSS Executive Committee: (front row, l to r) Chris Becker, Dave Yarborough, Renee Keese, Jerry Baron, Bill Curran (back row, l to r) Kathie Kalmowitz, Dan Kunkel, Bob Sweet, Greg Armel, Toni DiTommaso, Dwight Lingenfelter, Matt Ryan. (missing: Dave Spak)

## 2007 NEWSS Committees

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# Preliminary Membership Survey Results



**Bill Curran**  
**Past President**

As you all hopefully remember, many of you filled out a survey at our awards luncheon in Baltimore last January asking for your input on our future direction. Although we are still analyzing and distilling some of the results from this survey which you will continue to hear about over the next several months, I thought I would summarize some of the main points in this newsletter. The EC has already started considering adjustments and we will share these ideas and more information about the survey as we move ahead in planning our annual meeting and the future of our society.

## Key Points Thus Far:

- First, we had about 120 surveys returned at the annual meeting. I don't have the exact number, but that's about 70% of our members attending the annual conference. The demographics of our survey respondents were 19% live in MD, 16% in PA, 12% in NY, 10% in NC, 9% in DE, and it went down from there. Less than 15% of the respondents live in New England. Most of the respondents were from the University sector (41%) with industry coming in second (17%), Government (fed, state, and local) comprised 15% and students made up 9% of the respondents.
- Of the respondents, 23% claim Agronomy as an expertise, 20% Weed Biology and Ecology, 16% Turfgrass and PGR's, 15% Ornamentals, 13% Fruit and Vegetables, 8% Conservation, Forestry, and Industrial, and 5% other.
- Of the group, 42% claim research as a primary job responsibility, 21% extension and outreach, 11% technical support, and 7% teaching.
- In terms of governance, most respondents felt that students should be more involved in assisting in annual meeting activities (80% agree or strongly agree). Most thought that Section Chairs should have a greater role in the annual meeting

- development and execution.
- In terms of meeting time, 58% believe we should continue to meet in January with 23% voting for Feb/March. Breaking it down further, about 40% of our students would like to not meet in early January, although 50% still want to meet sometime in January. However, 75% of all respondents would be willing to change the meeting date in order to have a joint meeting with other groups.
- In terms of location, 61% think we should continue to rotate between southern and northern locations for the annual meeting, but of those in attendance, 55% prefer the Baltimore/Washington area. Of those voting, 55% would be very willing and 29% would be somewhat willing to meet in the same place for multiple years for cost savings benefits. Also, 58% would be very willing and 27% somewhat willing to meet in smaller cities for cost savings opportunities.
- In terms of breakouts, 63% thought that Agronomy was very important, 52% Conservation, Forestry and Industrial, 62% Turfgrass and PGR's, 58% Ornamentals, 59% Vegetables and Fruit, and 71% Weed Biology and Ecology. Not sure how meaningful this is?
- About 67% felt that we needed more discussion time at the annual meeting, but only 38% felt like this should take place at the Poster session. It appears that the Poster session may not be the preferred time for greater discussion.
- Overwhelmingly, everyone believes the student paper contest is important. Of the group, 57% think the session should be offered as a separate breakout or stand alone session compared with 22% that disagree or strongly disagree. Students, University, and Industry most strongly support the separate session option.
- Most respondents believe we should target program efforts at current nonmember groups (74%) and CCA's, Green Industry Groups, Invasive plants groups, and State and Federal Regulators are all important targets. Horticulture society, aquatic plant groups, and invasive plant groups were all identified as important groups to



meet with.

- About 84% of the respondents believe that we should consider sponsoring educational events either in combination or outside the annual meeting.
- The weed contest continues to be an important activity with 64% believing it is very important.
- In terms of the Proceedings, 70% believe the current format should be continued, although a preference for Paper, CD, and Web-based formats was almost divided evenly among the respondents.

## Graduate Student Report



**Matt Ryan**  
**Graduate Student Rep**

Greetings everyone, this is my first contribution to the NEWSS newsletter as the Graduate Student Representative. I would like to start by thanking our previous representative, Dr. Jacob Barney, who has done an outstanding job as being a voice for the graduate students in the society. Jacob has made a substantial impact in the society, and one lasting impression of his leadership will be the Robert Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award which will be awarded for the first time at the 2008 NEWSS annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Jacob was instrumental in the development of this award as well as a number of other positive initiatives. After completing his Ph.D. degree at Cornell University, Jacob accepted a post-doc position with Joe DiTomaso at UC Davis, and will be working on a project aimed at determining the risk of introducing switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) as a biofuel feedstock in California where this plant is not native.

One of Jacob's last contributions was coordinating the graduate student mixer at the 2007 NEWSS annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. The mixer included a presentation by Dr. Lee Van Wychen on his role as the NEWSS Science Policy Director and his activities in Washington DC. Dr. Van Wychen discussed the impact and benefits of writing personalized letters to representatives in congress, and talked about meeting

with program directors when in the process of submitting proposals for competitive grants. For those of you who missed out, it was fun and informative mixer filled with an active discussion, and plenty of refreshments and tasty gourmet pizza. Over the next several months I will be in the process of identifying a guest speaker for the student mixer at the 2008 meeting, and I encourage anyone with ideas to please let me know.

Another exciting development in the society is the planned modification of the graduate student presentations at the annual meeting. Previously, graduate students in the paper contest would present in the breakout section that matched their presentation topic. Starting at the 2008 meeting, all graduate students involved in the student paper contest will present together. This will allow graduate students to observe each others presentations without missing non-student presentations of interest, and will also prevent the judges from scurrying from section to section.

The last thing that I want to mention is the upcoming summer weed contest that will be held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. This is really a great opportunity for students to get together and hone your weed science skills and I encourage all graduate students to participate. This event is open to undergraduate students as well, so please be sure to let everyone that might be interested know about this exciting opportunity. Please pass my contact information on to anyone that is interested, so that I can keep them updated on the weed contest and other student related events ([mrr203@psu.edu](mailto:mrr203@psu.edu)).

## Research and Education Report



**Kathie E. Kalmowitz**  
**Research and Education Chair**

Overall participation in all sessions and numbers of individuals who signed for pesticide license recertification, CCA accreditation and GCSAA certification increased with the meeting location in Baltimore for January 2007. This was the expected response that the Executive Committee of NEWSS had hoped for when the annual meeting is centrally located

along the Eastern seaboard.

Along with the General Session and discipline sessions (Agronomy, Weed Ecology/Biology, Turfgrass, Ornamentals, Vegetable/Fruit, Industrial/Forestry/Roadside) the annual meeting sponsored three Symposia as part of Educational Outreach to the academic and end-user communities. These symposia were: Turfgrass Symposium on New Chemical Development; Horseweed Management including discussions on resistance; and, Riparian Establishment and Invasive Management. An additional Research Methods for Weed Control in Ornamentals was also held for members who focus in this area. Fliers were designed for the overall Program and General Session, Invasive and Turfgrass Symposia and distributed through session chairs to assist with bringing in community participants to the Annual Meeting. The following communication efforts were made prior to the meeting to assist with advertising the NEWSS Annual Meeting.

Larry Norton (Bayer ES) and Dr. Dernoeden (University of Maryland) provided notification through normal Mid-Atlantic turfgrass segments. In addition the following GCSAA affiliated chapters were sent the Turfgrass Symposium flier as well as schedule of papers to be presented in the regular turfgrass sessions. Eastern Shore, Mid Atlantic, Philly, Central Penn, VA GCSAA, Baltimore Greens, Eastern Shore, New Jersey GCSAA, Maryland Turfgrass Association, Virginia Turfgrass Association, and the USGA Greens Section Agronomists.

The Ornamental Research Workshop was coordinated by Dr. James Altland, Oregon State University. Outreach Chair assisted with discussions on planning the topics and with recording the session so a proceedings report can be provided to the NEWSS for the 2008 Proceedings. Art Gover, Penn. State University, planned, recruited speakers and moderated the Invasive Weed Symposium; Dr. Mark Van Gessel handled all program needs for the Horseweed Symposia.

The following organizations provided accreditation for the specific sessions: GCSAA (Golf Course Superintendents Association of America) and the Agronomy Society Certified Crop Advisor Program. The following states provided pesticide license credit approval: Maryland was

listed as the host state; with Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. New Hampshire did not approve the meeting. Without Russ Hahn the certification by New York would not have happened. Russ was responsible for the association finally obtaining this for those members from NY.

Industrial/Conservation/Forestry and Turfgrass sessions and the overall Certified Crop Advisor Program (CCA) led the number of participants who signed for pesticide license credits. The states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York had the greatest number of individuals requesting some form of accreditation for our Annual Meeting. Participation by State and Session for the 2007 NEWSS Annual Meeting in Baltimore is shown below:

<i>2007 NEWSS Annual Meeting Accreditation Participation</i>				
<b>Session- Credit Requests</b>		<b>State</b>	<b>Total Number Signatures All Sessions</b>	<b>Number of Different Individuals</b>
General Session	4	Connecticut	3	3
Agronomy	18	Delaware	20	16
Industrial/ Conservation/ Forestry	28	Maine	1	1
Ornamentals	3	Maryland	38	34
Turfgrass and PGR's	24	New Jersey	7	5
Vegetables and Fruits	7	New York	24	18
Weed Biology and Ecology	15	North Carolina	6	5
Horseweed Mgt. Symposium	11	Pennsylvania	30	24
Ornamental Research Methods	15	Virginia	3	3
Turfgrass Symposium	22	Vermont	1	1
Riparian Management Symposium	17	West Virginia	4	4
		(MA, RI, NH)	0	0
		<b>Certified Crop Advisor</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>

## Science Policy News from D.C.



**Lee Van Wychen**  
*Director of Science Policy*

Things inside the DC Beltway have never been busier! The Farm Bill reauthorization for 2007 is in full swing... A new Congress has been dealing with a new FY2008 budget... The National and Regional Weed Science Societies have been working to advance their member's objectives and have conducted annual meetings in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Nashville, San Antonio and Portland... We have just completed another successful National Invasive Weed Awareness Week... and I have been very busy working on a number of exciting initiatives that are part of the WSSA's Long Term Strategic Plan.

### **USDA Under Secretary Buchanan Addresses WSSA in San Antonio**

Many of you had a chance to attend the Monday general session during the WSSA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Gale Buchanan, USDA Undersecretary for the Research, Education, and Economics (REE), present the Administration's 2007 Farm Bill proposal. Dr. Buchanan discussed the highlights of the Administration's Farm Bill proposal and provided excellent insight on Title VII of the Farm Bill on how the USDA is working to reorganize and revitalize their research, education, and economics mission and increase investment in high priority areas of research such as specialty crops, bio-energy, and bio-based products. The WSSA greatly appreciates Dr. Buchanan's support and time and is honored that he is a member of the WSSA.

The Administration is recommending several reforms and new initiatives for future agricultural research and the following is a list of the major components of the package.

- Consolidate USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) into a single agency named the Research, Education, and Extension Service (REES), which will coordinate both

intramural and extramural research, extension, and education programs.

- Rename the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area the Office of Science.
- Establish an annual \$50 million Agricultural Bio-Energy and Bio-Based Products Research Initiative to advance fundamental scientific knowledge for the improved production of renewable fuels and bio-based products.
- Establish an annual \$100 million Specialty Crop Research Initiative to provide science-based tools for the specialty crop industry.

Please visit [www.usda.gov/documents/07finalfbp.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/07finalfbp.pdf) to view the USDA's full 2007 Farm Bill proposal.

### **WSSA Comments on Agriculture Research Title Proposals in 2007 Farm Bill**

The Administration's 2007 Farm Bill proposal is mentioned above. The other two proposals that have various levels of support among different stakeholder groups are CREATE-21, which stand for Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century (CREATE-21) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) proposal. The CREATE-21 proposal calls for the consolidation of elements currently within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics program area (and Forest Service R&D) within a new "National Institutes for Food and Agriculture" in order to enhance the integration, efficiency, and flexibility of programmatic efforts in research, extension, and education. While sustaining existing intramural and university capacity funding, the Institute will also provide substantial new funding for competitively-awarded research, extension, and education grants. Finally, the CREATE-21 proposal includes major elements of the Danforth proposal for the creation of a National Institute of Food and Agriculture to substantially increase fundamental research within USDA. For more information, please visit: [www.create-21.org](http://www.create-21.org)

On March 9, 2007 members of the WSSA Board of Directors, the WSSA Science Policy Committee, and the Regional Weed Science Society Presidents approved the

following position statements regarding the various agricultural research title provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill. These position statements will help the National and Regional Weed Science Societies actively support legislation that meets these goals.

- **Reauthorize Strong Research Title.** The full range of research, extension & education (REE) provisions—including intramural (ARS, ERS, FS) and extramural [base funding (Formula Funds); competitive grants (NRI, CAP grants); and high priority/emergency needs]—is vital to meeting the challenges and opportunities that the U.S. food and agricultural sector face in the coming years. The integrated approach of the NRI and similar programs has been especially effective and should be strengthened.
- **Commit to Double Funding in Next 5 Years.** The provision in the current farm bill calling for agricultural research funding to be doubled over the next 5 fiscal years should be retained. The NIFA approach, the USDA farm bill proposal and the CREATE-21 proposals are unified in their call for enhanced public investment in food and agricultural REE.
  - WSSA endorses the stated objective of CREATE-21 to double federal funding for food and agricultural REE, through mandatory spending of \$200 million annually combined with increases in discretionary spending.
  - WSSA applauds the USDA proposal for recommending a significant increase in federal funding in the next research title, through both mandatory and discretionary spending. Targeted increases in biofuels and specialty crops research represent a strong beginning, but other chronically under funded areas remain to be addressed.
- **Authorize NIFA.** WSSA supports establishment of a National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in USDA. NIFA was recommended by a USDA REE Task Force to address a significant gap in fundamental research. Funding must be in addition to critical funding for existing USDA REE programs.

- **Increase Funding for Existing Programs.** Chronic under funding in the NRI and other programs remains to be addressed through the authorization and appropriations process.
- **Encourage Interagency Partnerships.** Strengthen current authorities used by USDA to leverage funds by partnering with other agencies to fund critical projects (for example, DOE, NSF, NASA)
- **Strengthen Stakeholder Participation.** WSSA urges expanded public participation in the Administration's REE priority setting and funding decision process.
- **Debate Organizational Reform Proposals.** WSSA believes any consolidation or reorganization must preserve and enhance the level of cooperation among intramural and extramural REE functions of USDA and universities and other partners and retain institutional memory. Proposed reforms in the USDA and CREATE-21 proposals concerning the organization of USDA's research mission will help stimulate serious debate about how to optimize and maximize this critical federal investment in the future of the U.S. food and agriculture system and the public benefits such investments provide.

#### **WSSA Biofuels and Invasive Plants white paper**

In response to the major surge in renewable fuels initiatives going on at the Federal and State levels, the WSSA has formulated a white paper that addresses the concerns and issues occurring at the interface of invasive weeds and plants being grown for cellulosic biomass energy production. Special thanks to WSSA members Nelroy Jackson, Jodie Holt, and Joe DiTomaso for drafting these comments on a very short timeline.

#### ***Biofuels and Invasive Plant Species***

*A variety of plant species from a range of taxa, including crops and wild plants, are being considered for use as biofuels. It is important to consider not only the economic and social benefits of these species, but the potential risks associated with their introduction and propagation.*



*Biofuel crops can have economic benefits, but in some cases can also have the potential to escape cultivation and become invasive in natural ecosystems. For example, of the many grasses being evaluated or considered as biofuels, most are rhizomatous perennials and a few have already been shown to be extremely invasive in many communities (e.g., giant reed [Arundo donax] and reed canarygrass [Phalaris arundinacea]). Similarly, woody species under consideration, such as Chinese tallowtree (Sapium sebiferum), are also very invasive in many southern states. These species threaten riparian areas and wetlands, alter fire cycles, and have a negative impact on wildlife habitat.*

*Ideally, plants used as an economically efficient source of biofuel should be easily propagated in highly managed agricultural systems, but should not be capable of surviving outside of such cultivation. This is true for nearly all of the major crops currently grown in the US, including rice, wheat, corn, soybean, cotton, tomato and alfalfa. Similar expectations should apply to biofuel crops. Without this expectation, the benefits of crop-based biofuel production may be offset by far greater economic and ecological damage caused by their invasion into sensitive natural ecosystems, as well as drainage and irrigation canals.*

*Although introducing some plant species as biofuel sources may be safe and beneficial to society, the environmental and ecological risks associated with their potential escape and invasion into natural systems must be evaluated along with the agronomic or economic benefits. Similar evaluations and analyses are already mandatory for biological control agents and transgenic plants, and should be in place before decisions are made regarding the use of biofuel plants.*

people participate for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Invasive Weed Awareness Week. I would like to personally thank the outstanding efforts by Nelroy Jackson for helping coordinate and plan NIWAW activities. Also, many thanks to Jill Schroeder and Jeff Derr for traveling to Washington DC to participate in the weeks events and helping out with all the planning. Jeff Derr submitted the following comments to the WSSA Board of Directors. I have modified them slightly for the newsletter, but felt they very accurately reflect NIWAW! Thanks Jeff!

*I wanted to update you on our activities in Washington D.C. during the 8th National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW). We accomplished a lot during our time there!*

*First of all, the participants: Jill Schroeder and I formally represented the WSSA board during the week. Linda Nelson, John Madsen, Kurt Getsinger, Janet Clark, Mike Chandler, Al Tasker, Jen Vollmer, and George Beck also participated. Nelroy Jackson chaired the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition (IWAC) that organized NIWAW and Lee Van Wychen organized our visits during the week, as well as helping Nelroy with meeting planning.*

*I would like to thank Nelroy and Lee for all their hard work on NIWAW. They both did a tremendous amount to prepare for the week, as well as ensuring that all events went smoothly. They also made sure that Jill, I, and WSSA were formally recognized during the various events. WSSA was mentioned frequently during the week, which was nice to see.*

*I thought I would let you know about the events in which Jill and I participated. We had an orientation session Sunday evening. Lee, Nelroy and I met with the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) board. They, as well as others during the week, expressed keen interest in the new journal.*

*On Monday morning, we heard presentations from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Nature Conservancy, the Council of Environmental*

## **8<sup>th</sup> National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW 8) a Success**

Despite Mother Nature's attempt to thwart us, we had 170

Quality, and EPA, among others. What was amazing to me was that the EPA official, Debbie Edwards, specifically mentioned WSSA in her talk. That afternoon, Jill, Lee, John Jachetta, and I met with 12 EPA officials, including Debbie Edwards, Don Stubbs, John Leahy, and Bill Chism, among others, in regards to us providing assistance to them through a liaison, plus other possibilities. We heard about EPA's timeline for herbicide reregistration and registration review assessments. This was a productive meeting and I am sure we will follow up with further dialogue with EPA.

On Tuesday morning, we heard presentations from a variety of USDA agencies involved in invasive plant management, including APHIS, ARS, CSREES, and NRCS, among others. We had an opportunity to interact with Del Delfosse and John Lydon, among others. John and I discussed the possibility of ARS having their stakeholder/ARS planning meeting at the 2008 WSSA meeting (I had discussed this with some of you in San Antonio). Tuesday afternoon, Lee, Jill and I met staffers for Senators Domenici, Bingaman, and Webb. We presented 3 position papers (National Parks Service agreements with landowners, Salt Cedar, and Noxious Weed Control bills), along with a white paper on biofuels and invasive plants that was developed by Joe DiTomaso, Jodie Holt, and Nelroy.

Wednesday morning we heard reports from various agencies in the Department of the Interior. Jill, Lee and I met with Colien Hefferan, Administrator for CSREES. Rob Hedberg set up this meeting and sat in. She was very interested in our white paper on the biofuels/invasive plant issue. We had hoped to discuss NRI funding but did not have time. Wednesday afternoon we listened to reports from various non-government agencies, including the Nature Conservancy, Wildlife forever, Union of Concerned Scientists, and the State Depts. of Agriculture, among others.

Wednesday evening we had a reception at the US Botanic Garden with yours truly as m.c. for the

awards presentation (Jill had the honor last year). George Beck was one of the awardees. About 240 people attended the reception, including 3 congressional staffers and members from a range of government agencies. Excellent place for a reception with time for informal discussions.

Thursday morning we heard presentations from FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds), including APHIS, USGS, and DOT/FHWA. For lunch, Nelroy arranged for Jill, Lee, and me to meet with the Garden Club of America board. They are a large group and thus it would be good to partner with them wherever possible. Thursday afternoon included a briefing from the National Invasive Species Council, and there was a debriefing meeting run by Nelroy.

I feel we made some excellent contacts during our week in DC. I am sure we will discuss during the summer board meetings some of the ideas we talked about at NIWAW. I feel it was very worthwhile for Jill and I to participate in NIWAW and I think the time Nelroy and Lee devoted to this activity was time well spent.

Jeff Derr

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.  
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fax: 202-408-5385

## 2007 Collegiate Weed Contest

**Shawn Askew, Committee Co-Chair/Host  
Collegiate Weed Contest**

Virginia Tech will host the NEWSS collegiate weed contest on **July 31, 2007** in Blacksburg, VA. Coaches will be sent complete details about contest specifics and hotel reservations soon. **Also, as always, much help is needed before and during the contest, please consider assisting as a volunteer.** To volunteer to help or if you have any questions please contact the contest Julie Keating at (540) 231-5835 [keatingj@vt.edu](mailto:keatingj@vt.edu) .

### Lodging

Holiday Inn University (540) 552-7001  
900 Prices Fork Road [www.holidayinn.com/blacksburgva](http://www.holidayinn.com/blacksburgva)  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

40 rooms have been reserved for the night(s) of 7/30/2007 – 8/01/2007 at the special group rate of \$40.00 for single or double occupancy. All reservations should be made by **7/09/2007**. When booking online use group code WEE, by phone use group name NEWSS Weed Contest.

Hawthorne Suites (540) 552-5636  
1020 Plantation Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

40 rooms have been reserved for the nights of 7/30/2007 – 08/01/2001 at \$75.00. All reservations should be made by **7/02/2007**. Use group name NEWSS Weed Contest when reserving room.

### Directions

Holiday Inn – University:

**From I-81:** Take Exit 118 toward Blacksburg. Follow US 460 Bypass West and signs for Virginia Tech. Take Downtown Blacksburg/Prices Fork Road Exit off of US 460. The Inn at Virginia Tech is on the right at first stop light; the Holiday Inn is on the left just passed the first stop light.

Hawthorne Suites:

**From I-81:** Take Exit 118 toward Blacksburg. Follow US 460 Bypass West and signs for Virginia Tech. Take Prices Fork Road Exit, then a right at stoplight.

## Awards Chairman Calls for Nominees



**Bill Curran  
Past President**

This is the first call for nominations for the following NEWSS awards to be presented at the 2008 annual meeting:

- Distinguished Member Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Educator
- Outstanding Researcher
- Robert D. Sweet Outstanding Graduate Student Award (**New Award**)

The Robert D. Sweet Graduate Student Award is a new award for just for graduate student members of our society. This award is in honor of the tremendous impact Dr. Robert Sweet, Emeritus Professor, Cornell University and current CAST Representative to the Executive Committee, and has had on the training of graduate students over his many years as an active scientist and member of the NEWSS. The Outstanding Graduate Student Award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society up to one student at the MS level and one student at the PhD level.

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of weed science including research, teaching, extension, and society. Nominees cannot have received their degrees more than one year prior to the annual meeting, and must be in their final year of their program. Criteria and nomination forms for this new award as well as our other great awards are available at <http://www.newss.org/publications.php>. Please consider nominating our one of our many deserving members.

### **Qualifications for the OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

The Outstanding Graduate Student Award was established to recognize outstanding students at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels who are NEWSS student members for their work and contributions to the field of weed science in research, teaching, extension, and to the society.

Criteria for the award include:

- a. Nominees must be currently enrolled as a student or have received their degrees no more than 12 months prior to the annual meeting;
- b. The nomination must be by letter and 2 supporting letters are required;
- c. The nominating letter should explain in general and specific terms the outstanding contributions of the nominee;
- d. The nominator should also include the following information on the nominee with the nominating letter:
  - a. Academic and work history;
  - b. Listing of research publications including those in peer-reviewed journals, bulletins, society proceedings, and popular articles;
  - c. Teaching experience in classroom and laboratory including teaching assistant (include specific responsibilities) and guest/invited lectures;
  - d. Extension activities including field days, presentations at meetings, in-service training, civic personnel, schools, and general public;
  - e. Service to weed science organizations (committees, participation at weed contests, etc.);
  - f. Honors and awards (highlighting those related to weed science).
- e. Awards are limited to a maximum of one M.S. and one Ph.D. level award per year, and both level awards are not required to be given in any one year;
- f. Winners of the M.S. level award are also eligible for the award during their Ph.D. program;
- g. The award is a plaque.

**Nominations for the awards are due September 17, 2007.** Please submit your nomination to Bill Curran, Awards Committee Chairperson, at the following address and contact information:

Bill Curran  
116 ASI Bldg.  
Penn State – Crop and Soil Sciences  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-863-1014  
wcurran@psu.edu

## WSSA Report



**Toni DiTommaso**  
**WSSA Rep.**

The WSSA annual meeting in 2007 was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, TX from February 5-8. A total of 490 participants attended the meeting including 68 graduate students. Nearly 90 participants attended the Leafy Greens Vegetable Tour on Sunday, Feb. 5 - one day prior to the official start of the meeting. A total of 327 papers (including 149 posters) were presented at the San Antonio Meeting. This was down some 30 papers from the New York City meeting in 2006. The meeting also included 4 symposia and a keynote address at the general session by Dr. Gale Buchanan, Undersecretary of Agriculture. Dr. Buchanan focused his presentation on the 2007 Farm Bill that was released publicly a week or so prior to start the WSSA annual meeting.

Concurrent with the WSSA meeting, Dr. Michael Bowers, National Program Leader, and Project Directors of CSREES-NRI *Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species in Agroecosystems* Program funded projects met on Feb. 6 to discuss research progress, collaboration, and continued funding opportunities within this program. PD's presented their findings both in oral and poster formats.

A round table discussion on the creation of a new invasive plant journal also took place at the WSSA meeting. The response from participants for creating this journal was generally very positive although some concerns were expressed about start up costs and target audience for the journal. See below for more information on the new journal.

The 2008 WSSA meeting location will be the Chicago Hilton Hotel from February 4-7, 2008. Jeff Derr is the Program Committee chair and he has been hard at work putting in place a strong program. If you would like to develop a symposium for the 2008 meeting, please visit the WSSA website homepage at: <http://www.wssa.net/> for more details. The deadline for submission of symposia proposals is June 1, 2007. Note that the maximum funding level for putting together a symposium has now



been raised to \$5,000.

The 2009 WSSA annual meeting will be in the form of a joint meeting with the SWSS and will be held in Orlando, FL. This will be the first joint meeting between the WSSA and a regional society. A special committee chaired by Peter Porpiglia that includes members from all the regional societies as well as the Canadian Weed Science Society has been created to assure that this new venture will be successful for all participants. More details about the joint meeting will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

Discussions are also underway to determine the feasibility of holding concurrent meetings with the Society of Range Management for the 2010 annual meeting to be held in Denver, CO. More on this as information becomes available.

The next International Weed Science Society (IWSS) Meeting will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada June 23-27, 2008. The WSSA and Canadian Weed Science Society are co-sponsoring this meeting. Early registration information should become available soon.

The WSSA has approved the creation of a new invasive plant journal: ***Invasive Plant Science and Management***. Visit the WSSA website homepage at: <http://www.wssa.net/> for more details. Janet Clark, Director of the Center of Invasive Plant Management in Bozeman, MT has been hired as the project manager for the new journal. She will direct the new phase of the project including the development of a business and marketing plan. Dr. Joe DiTomaso, of UC-Davis has accepted the position of Editor for the new journal.

The WSSA is seeking applications for the following positions:

- Director of Publications
- Editor of the journal *Weed Technology*
- WSSA Newsletter Editor

Please visit the WSSA website homepage at: <http://www.wssa.net/> for more details. All positions would begin in February 2008.

### NEWSS Notables from the 2007 WSSA Meeting

Congratulations to **Brad Majek** of Rutgers University for being elected a Fellow of the WSSA at the February 2007 annual meeting.

Congratulations to **Joe Dauer, Dave Mortensen, and Robert Humston** from The Pennsylvania State University, for authoring the Outstanding Paper in *Weed Science*. The paper was titled: "Controlled experiments to predict horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*) dispersal distances." *Weed Science* 54:484-489. This award was presented at the 2007 WSSA annual meeting in San Antonio, TX.

### CAST Report



**Bob Sweet**  
**CAST Representative**

The CAST spring board meeting was held in D.C. March 20-23, 2007. It was highly productive and very upbeat. The fall meeting will be in late October in Ames Iowa. It will focus on CAST's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding at that location. I have been asked to assist with the planning so if NEWSS has anything in mind which should be highlighted, please let me know.

The morale and productivity of the staff is very high. A key reason is the new EVP, Dr. John Bonner. He has a pleasing management style, many innovative ideas and is very hard working.

A major challenge for several years has been the shrinking income from company donors. There are multiple reasons for this. Member societies are increasing in number but their dues cover only about 1/3 of the basic costs. Members are being asked to provide Dr. Bonner with the names of key people in agricultural companies – large or small. He will make the contact.

The reason there was no CAST exhibit at NEWSS in '07: The woman who sends the material was being treated for breast cancer.

## 2007 NEWSS Award Winners

### Graduate Student *PAPER* Contest

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**      **Bryan Dillehay,**  
**Penn State Univ.**      **Alfalfa/Grass Forage Mixtures Using Glyphosate Resistant Alfalfa.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**      **John Willis,**  
**Virginia Tech Univ.**      **Use of Triclopyr to Reduce Antichromatic Effects of Mesotrione in Turfgrass.**

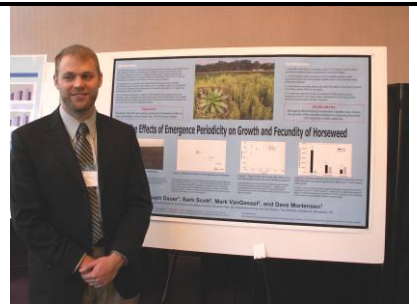


**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**      **Glenn Evans,**  
**Cornell Univ.**      **Natural Product Potential for Weed Control in Potato.**

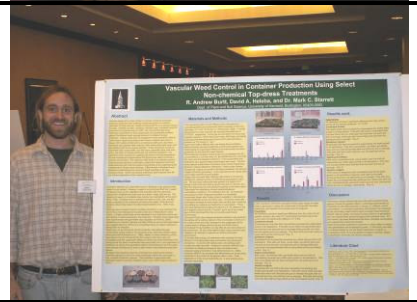


### Graduate Student *POSTER* Contest

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**      **Joe Daur,**  
**Penn State Univ.**      **Effects of Emergence Periodicity on Growth and Fecundity of Horseweed.**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**      **Andrew Burt,**  
**Univ. Vermont**      **Vascular Weed Control in Container Production Using Select Non-chemical Top-dress Treatments.**



## **PHOTO Contest**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place      Rob Richardson, NC State**



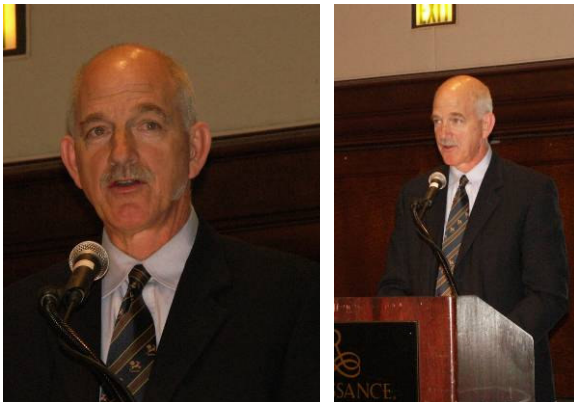
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place      Joe Neal, NC State**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place      Shawn Askew, Virginia Tech**



## **Awards at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**



**Larry Kuhns received the Distinguished Member Award.**



**Brian Olson received the Distinguished Member Award.**



Photos from the 61<sup>st</sup>  
NEWSS Annual Meeting  
Baltimore, MD (Jan 2-5, 2007)

Poster Session



**Peter Dernoeden received the Outstanding Researcher Award.**



**Prasanta Bhomik received the Outstanding Educator Award.**

(Prasanta was unable to attend the meeting since he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for spring 2007 and was in Bangladesh to lecture on weed ecology and management in various agro-ecosystems in Bangladesh at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka.)





**General Session**



**Pres.-elect Renee Keese opens the General Session.**



**Bill Curran uses multimedia as he gives the Presidential Address entitled "The Times They Are A-Changin'"**



## Award Lunch and Membership Survey



Dr. Janis McFarland, Syngenta Crop Protection presented “Where is the Next Generation of Weed Scientists being Trained?” as one of the presentations during the General Session.



## Afternoon General Session



Rich Bonanno, UMass, gives an overview of NEWSS issues and provides recommendations from the Future Committee. His comments led into an Awards Lunch and a subsequent survey of the NEWSS membership in order to better determine the needs, function, and direction of the society.



Dr. Leonard Gianessi, Crop Life America Foundation, discussed weed control and herbicide issues in crop production through a presentation entitled “The War of the Weeds.”



**Jerry Baron, IR-4 Project, provides some insight into future herbicides and how new technologies will allow novel weed management opportunities.**

**Turfgrass Symposium: “New and Innovative Chemistries for the Golf Course” Speakers**



**Horseweed Symposium: Speakers**



**A panel of (l to r) Dr. Lee Van Wychen, WSSA DSP, Mr. Donald Stubbs, US EPA, and Dr. Rob Hedberg, USDA-CSREES discuss “Government Influence in Weed Science: Legislation, Regulation, and Science Funding.”**

**Invasive Plant Symposium: “Weed Management in Establishment of Riparian Forest Buffers” Speakers**



**Ornamentals Workshop Speakers**





## Annual Business Meeting



**President Bill Curran opens the Business Meeting on Thursday afternoon.**



**President Bill Curran (l) passes the gavel to President-Elect Renee Keese.**



**Secretary/Treasurer Chris Becker gives his annual report during the Business meeting.**



**President Renee Keese (r) honors Past President Bill Curran for his service to the NEWSS.**



## Photos during the conference





**NEWSS Past Presidents:** (front, l to r) R. Taylorson, J. Parochetti, B. Majek, S. Fertig, B. Sweet, G. Schnappinger, J. Derr; (back, l to r) R. Bonanno, S. Glenn, B. Olson, D. Mayonado, T. Dutt, R. Johnson, R. Hahn, E. Beste, J. Ahrens, J. Neal

### **APMS Graduate Assistantship**

#### **APMS Graduate Assistantship Available for 2007**

A graduate assistantship in the area of aquatic plant management and ecology is being offered by the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS) and the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF). Co-sponsors of this academic award include regional APMS chapters.

**Objective:** To provide a stipend for a full-time graduate student to conduct research in aquatic plant management techniques (used alone or integrated with other management approaches) or in aquatic ecology related to the management of regionally or nationally recognized nuisance aquatic vegetation.

**Applications:** Solicitation for proposals is open to any full-time faculty member and/or graduate student of an accredited U.S. academic institution. A faculty sponsor must be indicated if the application is submitted by a graduate student.

**Amount:** \$60,000

**Duration of Award:** Two years (\$30,000 per year)

**Proposal Deadline:** Applications must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2007.

**Guidelines for Proposals:** Proposals should contain a concise statement of the project, including its purpose and justification, as well as sections that discuss study objectives, methodologies, schedule, budget, and planned publication of results. The APMS will not pay overhead/indirect costs on approved projects. Resume of faculty applicant and graduate student (if known), not to exceed two pages each, should be included. Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and must be signed by the applicant and appropriate University official. An original and electronic copy should be submitted to:

Mr. Carlton Layne

3272 Sherman Ridge Dr.

Marietta, GA 30064

Phone: 678-773-1364

Fax: 770-499-0158

Email: clayne@aquatics.org

**Award:** Notification of award will be provided to the faculty member by July 2007, with initiation of the stipend scheduled for the 2007-2008 academic Year.